

Children's Chatter

Greetings from the (very quiet) Children's Department!

Recently, I saw one of our library families while picking up my to-go order from Alejandro's. We shouted our hellos from one car to the other — which is, sadly, how many of us have to communicate now — and I lamented just how *quiet* the library is these days. That, folks, is a sign that times are really bad: the librarians are complaining about the quiet! The children's area stays impeccably neat, too, and I no longer trip over toys when I leave my office. All these things make me terribly sad, but not as sad as the fact that I don't know when this new "normal" will end. Like many people, enduring this pandemic would be easier if there was a light at the end of the tunnel.

Despite all the uncertainty, we librarians are doing the best we can with the hand we've all been dealt. We are providing contactless pickup seven days a week, from 10 am-4 pm, and will happily gather books for you if you aren't sure how to request them yourself. (See the **Book Bundles** article below.) The Children's Garden is always open, too, so please feel free to stop by! It is a beautiful space in need of some company.

Stay safe, stay sane, and reach out if you need anything!

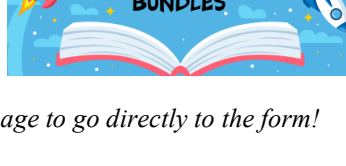
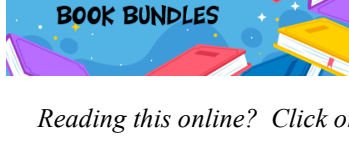
Happy reading!

~Ms. Emily

Book Bundles

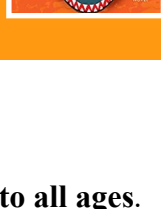
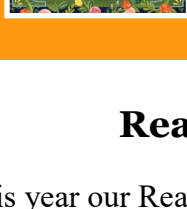
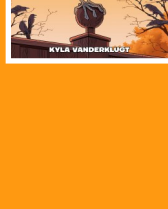
I am excited to announce a new children's service: Book Bundles! These are perfect for families who miss browsing the library or don't have time to search the online catalog themselves. All you have to do is fill out a short form about your child's reading habits or needs, and we'll grab some books for you!

The forms are on the homepage of our website (www.salemlibrary.info). You have three options: **Book Bundles**, **Homework Help**, and **Picture Book Bundles** (best for young readers). If you're not sure which one you should fill out, give me a call and I will help you out!



Reading this online? Click on an image to go directly to the form!

NEW



Reading Challenge

This year our Reading Challenge is **open to all ages**. This gives everyone in the family a chance to win a gift card from one of the businesses shown below! Every challenge you complete earns you an entry in a monthly drawing. **The Reading Challenge will continue through the end of December**, so you have lots of chances to win. You can find the challenge list and entry form on our [website](http://www.salemlibrary.info). Happy reading!



Requesting Books Through the Online Catalog

Never used our online catalog before? Don't worry! The catalog is fairly simple to figure out. It's basically like online shopping but **FREE!**

Start out by going to rvl.info. Go to the top of the page and log in using your library card number and pin. (Your pin is **rvl** if you've never changed it.) Then use the search tool to look up books by title, author, or subject. When you see one you want, click on the title and then on the big "Place Hold" button. That's it!

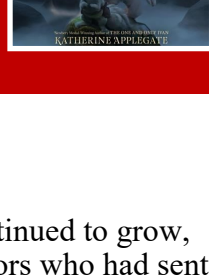
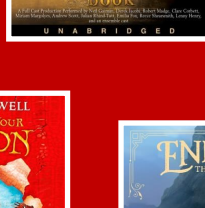
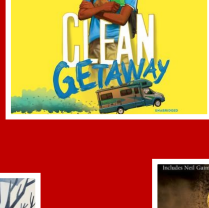
To find out if your books have arrived, click on "**My Account**" (at the top of the page) or sign up for Library Elf (www.libraryelf.com), a fantastic service that will text or email you when your items have arrived. Then call and tell us you're coming to pick them up, and we'll put them in the front foyer for you!

Zoom & Grabbies

We are having a ton of fun at our **Zoom Storytimes!** Join us every Wednesday in September at 10 am for fun stories and songs. Email the library to receive the Zoom meeting ID and password!

Picking up books? Grab a **Grabbie** while you're here! These fun crafts are the perfect non-electronic entertainment.

Listen up! Check out our favorite audiobooks:



Final thoughts...

"So Matilda's strong young mind continued to grow, nurtured by the voices of all those authors who had sent their books out into the world like ships on the sea. These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message:
You are not alone."

~Roald Dahl, *Matilda*